

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02128 070834Z

46

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 PM-03 L-01 SP-02

EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 MC-01 /041 W

----- 018639

R 070748Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5426

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2128

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SALE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT TO NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 066372; (B) CANBERRA 1669; (C) STATE 057757

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS TO PURCHASE AMERICAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT APRIL 3 WITH ROBERTSON, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA). PER REF (C) EMBOFF SOUGHT ASSURANCE (1) THAT GOA WOULD ASSIST USG IN PREVENTING RE-EXPORT OF U.S. AIRCRAFT FROM AUSTRALIA TO NORTH KOREA IF SUCH TRANSACTION SURFACED, AND (2) DFA HAD NO OBJECTION TO EMBASSY APPROACHING QANTAS ALONG LINES INDICATED REF (C). ROBERTSON RECEPTIVE BUT NOT FAMILIAR WITH MATTER AND REQUESTED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITHIN DFA BEFORE GIVING DEFINITIVE ANSWER.

2. ON APRIL 4 FERNANDEZ, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE DIVISION, DFA, CALLED ECONCOUNS TO CONVEY REPLY. HE CONFIRMED GOA EXERCISES STRATEGIC EXPORT CONTROL ON EXPORT SALES OF AIRCRAFT. FERNANDEZ CONFIRMED GOA WOULD COOPERATE IN PREVENTING TRANSFER OF 707S FROM AUSTRALIAN REGISTER TO NORTH KOREA. HE FURTHER STATED DFA IN TOUCH WITH QANTAS EARLIER IN YEAR RE QANTAS' TWO SURPLUS 707S AND HAD THEN INSTRUCTED QANTAS TO DELETE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 02128 070834Z

NORTH KOREA FROM A LIST OF POSSIBLE PURCHASERS AANTAS

HAD PRESENTED FOR DFA REVIEW.

3. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING L-1011S OR CONVAIR 880S. FERNANDEZ STATED THAT AUSTRALIAN EXPORT CONTROLS WOULD APPLY TO EXPORT SALES IF SUCH PLANES ON AUSTRALIAN REGISTRY, BUT OBSERVED, CONFIRMING EMBASSY'S EARLIER INFORMATION, THAT NO 1011S OR 880S NOW ON AUSTRALIAN REGISTRY.

4. IN FERNANDEZ' VIEW THERE IS NO NEED FOR PROPOSED EMBASSY APPROACH TO QANTAS IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS DFA INSTRUCTIONS TO QANTAS, BUT HE AGREED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT DFA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SUCH APPROACH IF EMBASSY WISHED PROCEED.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: FERNANDEZ' ADVICE REASSURING RE ATTITUDE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. IT MEANS QANTAS WILL NOT DIRECTLY SELL ITS SURPLUS 707S TO NORTH KOREA NOR KNOWINGLY SELL THEM TO UWBTRMEDIARY FOR FURTHER SALE TO NORTH KOREA. IT DOES NOT, OF COURSE, COVER CONCEIVABLE INDIRECT SALES WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY TRANSFER AIRCRAFT TO NORTH KOREA WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE QANTAS OR GOA. IT ALSO THROWS NO LIGHT ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN HOPE TO ACQUIRE OTHER TYPES OF U.S. TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FROM AUSTRALIAN SOURCE. FOR THIS REASON, OUR ABILITY TO GET GOA EXPORT CONTROL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF SELLERS OTHER THAN QANTAS MAY DEPEND IN PRACTISE ON WHETHER USG CAN IDENTIFY FOR GOA OTHER AUSTRALIAN DEALERS WITH WHOM NORTH KOREA MIGHT CONTEMPLATE DEALING.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN FERNANDEZ' ASSURANCES, EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER IT IS DESIRABLE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DIRECT USG APPROACH TO QANTAS, THEREBY INCREASING POSSIBILITY OF INFORMATION LEAK ON THIS MATTER. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER IN LIGHT FERNANDEZ INFORMATION DEPT. STILL WISHES AMBASSADOR TO WRITE DIRECTLY TO CHAIRMAN OF QANTAS ALONG LINES PARA 5 REF 'C).
GREEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, REEXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER02128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-0947
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750476/aaaacrsz.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 066372, 75 CANBERRA 1669, 75 STATE 057757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SALE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT TO NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ESTC, AS, KN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006